



HELEN KELLER

(1880 —)

THIS IS THE STORY OF A WOMAN WHO WOULD NOT BE DEFEATED—A WOMAN WHOSE STIRRING TRIUMPH OVER PERSONAL HANDICAPS IS THE GREATEST IN HISTORY, AND HAS MADE HER NAME A LEGEND—AN INSPIRATION TO OTHERS—AND A BYWORD FOR ACHIEVEMENT!

WHEN SHE WAS STILL A BABY, HELEN KELLER LOST BOTH HER SIGHT AND HEARING. BUT WITH UNPARALLELED COURAGE, FAITH AND DETERMINATION, THIS AMAZING WOMAN LEARNED TO READ... TO SPEAK... TO LISTEN WITH HER FINGERTIPS!

TODAY--THE BOOKS HELEN KELLER HAS WRITTEN--THE WORK SHE HAS DONE, AND IS DOING, FOR THE BLIND AND DEAF--ARE MONUMENTS TO A VALIANT SPIRIT THAT KNEW HOW TO TAKE UP A CHALLENGE... AND WIN!

HELEN KELLER WAS BORN JUNE 27, 1880, IN TUSCUMBIA, ALABAMA--A BEAUTIFUL, HEALTHY AND HAPPY BABY. BUT AT THE AGE OF 19 MONTHS, SHE WAS STRICKEN WITH BRAIN FEVER.

THE DOCTOR DESPAIRED OF SAVING HER--BUT UNEXPECTEDLY, SHE RALLIED!

EVERYTHING IS ALL RIGHT NOW--YOUR BABY IS COMPLETELY CURED!

OH, THANK YOU, DOCTOR! THANK YOU!



BUT A FEW WEEKS LATER...

ARTHUR--I JUST NOTICED--WHEN I PASS MY HAND IN FRONT OF THE BABY'S FACE--SHE DOESN'T BLINK HER EYES--

DO YOU THINK--! GOOD HEAVENS, KATE! WE'D BETTER TAKE HER TO AN OCULIST AT ONCE!



I HATE TO TELL YOU THIS, CAPTAIN AND MRS. KELLER, BUT YOUR BABY IS BLIND. SHE WILL NEVER SEE AGAIN.





WONDER WOMAN



POOR LITTLE THING! SHE CAN'T SEE ME... BUT WHY CAN'T SHE UNDERSTAND WHAT I SAY? SHE USED TO



NOT UNTIL A FEW WEEKS LATER DID HELEN'S PARENTS KNOW THAT LITTLE HELEN WAS TOTALLY DEAF AS WELL AS BLIND!

NOBODY KNEW HOW TO REACH THE CHILD BEHIND HER CLOSED DOORS, AND SHE GREW UP SPOILED AND UNMANAGEABLE



SHE KICKS AND SCREAMS LIKE THAT WHENEVER I TRY TO WASH HER FACE, OR COMB HER HAIR-- AND YESTERDAY, SHE LOCKED ME IN THE PANTRY-- I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH HER.

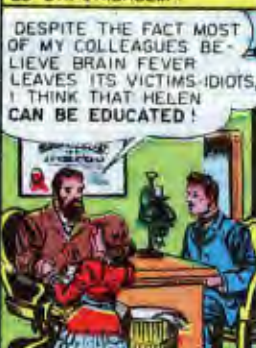


TAKE A BROTHER'S ADVICE-- PUT HER AWAY! SHE'S DEFECTIVE MENTALLY!



SHE IS NOT! MARK YOUR SISTER-IN-LAW'S WORDS, KATE-- THAT CHILD HAS MORE SENSE THAN ALL THE KELLERS! IF THERE'S A WAY TO REACH HER MIND, YOU'LL SEE.

BUT WAS THERE A WAY?? IN AN EFFORT TO FIND OUT CAPTAIN KELLER CONSULTED DR. CHISHOLM.



DESPITE THE FACT MOST OF MY COLLEAGUES BELIEVE BRAIN FEVER LEAVES ITS VICTIMS IDIOTS, I THINK THAT HELEN CAN BE EDUCATED!

FOR WEEKS, THE PARENTS SOUGHT FRANTICALLY FOR A PROPERLY TRAINED TEACHER-FINDING ONE, FINALLY, IN THE PERKINS INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND AND DEAF!

20-YEAR-OLD ANNE MANSFIELD SULLIVAN WAS THE TEACHER WHO WAS TO RELEASE THE BRIGHT AND SHINING SPIRIT OF HELEN KELLER FROM ITS DARK PRISON!



I'LL BEGIN BY MAKING FRIENDS WITH HER! SHE'S CERTAINLY GOING TO BE HARD TO TEACH-- SHE CAN'T READ OR WRITE, AND SHE DOESN'T KNOW WORDS



BUT ALL CHILDREN HAVE A NATURAL URGE TO IMITATE... THAT'S HOW THEY LEARN! I'LL SPELL THE LETTERS D-O-L-L INTO HER HAND AND MAYBE SHE'LL COPY WHAT I DO...



SHE'S DOING IT--SPELLING D-O-L-L! NOW IF I CAN ONLY MAKE HER UNDERSTAND THAT IT MEANS SOMETHING



BUT FOR ALL HELEN KNEW, SHE WAS PLAYING SOME MEANINGLESS GAME UNTIL ONE DAY...

THAT DID IT--DIPPING HER HAND INTO THE WATER AND SPELLING W-A-T-E-R INTO HER OTHER HAND! SHE UNDERSTANDS! SHE KNOWS NOW THAT EVERYTHING HAS A NAME!



FROM THEN ON, ANNE'S BRILLIANT YOUNG PUPIL LEARNED RAPIDLY... TO 'TALK' BY THE HAND ALPHABET... TO READ... *BRAILLE BOOKS...



* RAISED LETTERING.

THE FOLLOWING YEAR, ANNE TOOK HELEN FOR A VISIT TO THE PERKINS INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND.

WE'RE VERY GLAD TO MEET HELEN!

WHY, I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WERE OTHER BLIND LITTLE GIRLS LIKE ME! BUT THEY TALK WITH THEIR MOUTHS LIKE PEOPLE WHO CAN SEE--NOT WITH THEIR HANDS, THE WAY I DO!



LATER ANNE EXPLAINED...

THESE OTHER BLIND CHILDREN ARE NOT DEAF.

DON'T DEAF CHILDREN EVER LEARN TO SPEAK?



SOME DEAF CHILDREN LEARN TO SPEAK BUT THEY CAN SEE THEIR TEACHERS' MOUTHS... AND THAT HELPS THEM!

BUT I CAN FEEL YOUR MOUTH VERY WELL... AND I WANT TO TALK LIKE OTHER PEOPLE!



NOTHING COULD DISCOURAGE HELEN IN HER DETERMINATION TO TALK LIKE OTHER PEOPLE. IN 1890, ANNE TOOK HER TO MISS SARAH FULLER WHO TAUGHT THE CHILD TO FEEL THE POSITION OF HER TONGUE AND LIPS AS SHE SPOKE.

...AND AFTER ONLY ELEVEN LESSONS, THE MIRACLE HAPPENED!

I-AM-NOT-DUMB-NOW!





WONDER WOMAN



HELEN PRACTICED PRACTICED DRIVING HERSELF TO EXHAUSTION IN HER EFFORT TO MASTER SPEECH! THEN IN JULY, 1896, SHE ADDRESSED A MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION TO TEACH THE DEAF!

I CANNOT TELL YOU WHAT JOY IT GIVES ME TO BE ABLE TO SPEAK TO YOU! I ONLY HOPE THAT EVERY DEAF CHILD IN THE WORLD CAN BE TAUGHT TO SPEAK!



AS A FOREMOST MEDICAL AUTHORITY, DR. LOVE, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF HER?

THAT GIRL'S LEARNING TO SPEAK IS THE GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT IN THE WHOLE HISTORY OF ORAL SPEECH!



IN 1900, SHE ENTERED RADCLIFFE COLLEGE, THE FIRST TIME ANYONE WITH HER HANDICAPS HAD BEEN ADMITTED TO A UNIVERSITY! FAITHFUL ANNE INTERPRETED ALL LECTURES

REGARDING THE GREEK CITY-STATE



AND IN 1904, HELEN WON HER B A DEGREE!

WHILE STILL IN COLLEGE

MISS KELLER, WILL YOU WRITE THE STORY OF YOUR LIFE FOR MY MAGAZINE --- LADIES' HOME JOURNAL?

YES - IF YOU'LL ALSO PUBLISH SOME ARTICLES ON THE CONDITIONS OF THE BLIND



LAUNCHED ON A SUCCESSFUL WRITING CAREER, HELEN NEVER NEGLECTED HER OTHER CAREER HELPING THE BLIND!

AND IF THE BLIND ARE PROPERLY TRAINED AND NOT DISCRIMINATED AGAINST THERE ARE MANY WAYS THEY CAN EARN THEIR OWN LIVINGS!



IN 1936, HELEN KELLER AND ANNE SULLIVAN RECEIVED THE ROOSEVELT MEDAL FOR COOPERATIVE ACHIEVEMENT OF UNIQUE CHARACTER AND FAR-REACHING SIGNIFICANCE!

TODAY, THE TIRELESS ENERGY AND UNFLAGGING EFFORTS OF THIS WONDER WOMAN BRING NEW HOPE AND SOLACE TO THE WAR-BLIND!



HELEN KELLER HAS CONQUERED DEAFNESS AND ALTHOUGH HANDICAPPED BY BLINDNESS HAS MASTERED SPEECH - WON FAME AS A WRITER - SINGLE - HANDEDLY STARTED FREE MEDICAL CARE FOR THE BLIND - YET IS NOT CONTENT TO REST WITH THIS INCREDIBLE LIST OF ACHIEVEMENTS! FOR UNLIKE LESSER WOMEN, WHO MIGHT BE WILLING TO REST ON THEIR LAURELS, THIS WONDER WOMAN WILL GO ON AND ON, CONSTANTLY SEEKING TO HELP THOSE HANDICAPPED LIKE HERSELF - HER OWN SHINING EXAMPLE AN INSPIRATION TO THEM - AND TO ALL OF US!

Alice Fawcett